

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) A method for detecting the presence of a proteinase enzyme in a chronic wound of a human or an animal, said method comprising:

a) collecting a sample of fluid from the chronic wound of the human or the animal;

b) exposing the sample to a signal element bound to a target antibody, the target antibody being bindable to the proteinase enzyme to form a proteinase enzyme/target antibody complex;

c) exposing the proteinase enzyme/target antibody complex to a capture antibody to form a proteinase enzyme/target antibody complex/capture antibody conjugate; and

d) identifying the proteinase enzyme by determining the presence or absence of a detectable or measurable manifestation of the signal element, wherein said identification allows for the selection of a treatment for the chronic wound that is effective for treating the proteinase enzyme.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising identifying the proteinase enzyme by determining the presence or absence of the detectable or measurable manifestation of the signal element at a location of the proteinase enzyme/target antibody complex/capture antibody conjugate.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the target antibody and the signal element are ~~attached~~ bound to a particle.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the particle is polymer, latex, gold, glass, silicon, metal, bacterial or fungal cell, or a combination thereof.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the particle is a polystyrene bead.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the proteinase enzyme is a proenzyme or an active enzyme.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the proteinase enzyme is MMP-1, MMP-8, MMP-9, hNE, pro MMP-1, pro MMP-8, pro MMP-9, or combinations thereof.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the sample is exposed to a plurality of target antibodies, each target antibody being bindable to a different proteinase enzyme, and wherein the presence of a plurality of proteinase enzymes is detected simultaneously.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the signal element is a colorimetric compound, a radio-active compound, a potentiometric element, a fluorescent compound, a chemo-illuminiscent compound, a light diffracting element, or a combination thereof.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the target antibody and signal element are contained in a sample reservoir prior to exposure to the sample.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the sample reservoir is in fluid communication with a reaction site, said capture antibody being immobilized within said reaction site.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 56, wherein a collection area is positioned in fluid communication with [[the]] said reaction site.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein an absorbent pad is positioned within the sample reservoir, the collection area, or a combination thereof.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the fluid communication is a channel, a capillary, a wick, or a combination thereof.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein a plurality of reaction sites are in fluid communication with the sample reservoir.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 60, wherein each reaction site has a different capture antibody immobilized therein.